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**THE GENESEE FARMER.**

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 1834.

## Culture of the Melon.

I thank our friend D. T. for his communication on this subject, inserted in a late Farmer. I immediately adopted his plan—made about 130 feet of melon bed, partly with recent manure and partly with straw, and planted it with water and citron melon seeds. The seeds came up in four or five days, and the plants have a very promising appearance. I think they *must* do well—for the plan is calculated to secure a dry bottom, increased heat, and a rich pasture, three material requisites. I have gone farther. Having sixteen small boxes, with a four pane moveable sash to each, I made sixteen holes at suitable distances, deposited in each a full barrow of recent manure, trod it down, threw on the mold, planted melon seeds, and covered the hills with the boxes. These, being protected from the cold nights and heavy rains, are doing better than the first.

Having received seeds of the melon and squash from Buenos Ayres, Santa Fe and Constantinople, which, should they prove fine, I should like to preserve pure, I have adopted the following expedient, which will serve to prevent the sorts becoming mixed, and at the same time effectually secure the plants against the ravages of the yellow bug, and from the injury often experienced from heavy rains and winds. I got made at a tinman's shop, 20 half globe frames of No. 6 tinned wire, consisting each of three pieces, soldered together—two bent into a half circle, crossed at the top, and the third a circle made fast near the four ends of the other two—to rest on the ground. These I covered with millinet, part of it black and part white, and have placed them over the hills. They exclude the smallest insect, without materially obstructing the light or heat, and will endure, with careful usage, for years. I shall keep one or more of these over each kind of melon till the fruit has set, and, if necessary, fecundate artificially. The 20 frames cost the price of the wire (16 cents per pound) and ten shillings for making. It required one piece and a half of millinet to cover them, which cost 8*s.* the piece, or 12*s.* in the whole.

Seven days ago I received a package of melon seeds, embracing some of the Persian varieties, from Mr. Loudon, of London. I immediately prepared new pits with manure, planted the seeds, after soaking them an hour in warm water, covered with my small frames and glass, and in four days they were up. The millinet frames were then applied to the plants from which I had removed the boxes. B.

I have frequently lost my early cabbages by maggots which eat the bark of the roots. Four days ago I saw indications of the maggot. I pulled up two or three which were drooping, and found the maggots as I expected attached to the roots. I immediately applied very hot water to the plant, from the rose of a watering pot, to a part, and twenty-four hours afterwards to the rest. Those first watered mostly recovered; the others were mostly past recovery before the water was applied. The hot water did no injury, but rather a benefit, to the cabbages. B.

## Effects of the late Frost in Buffalo and its vicinity.

The weather for three days in May was exceedingly cold. A strong wind blew from the southwest, and occasionally from the northwest, and all vegetation exposed to its influence was completely frozen, and in many instances died. In the door yard of my dwelling is a large variety of shrubs and trees. They are exposed to the westerly winds, and had a severe trial of the weather. Among them are three of the common red garden cherry, then in full bloom. Part of the flowers only perished, and there will probably be half a crop of fruit. The horse chestnuts had leaved out and were growing finely, but the leaves all perished. They are now coming out again, but with diminished beauty. My syrin goes, mountain ash, lilac, yellow flowering currant, roses, honey suckles, globe flowers, snow balls, &c. &c. all suffered more or less. The Chinese and other pæonies shrunk for a few days under the blast, but have nearly recovered. Currants in many instances have lost their fruit, and gooseberries nearly altogether. Of plums there will be a few, peaches none, and apples tolerably plenty, as they were not yet in bloom at the frost. The maples and most other forest trees were frozen, and the tops of the grass in many places was completely killed. On the great water courses like the lake and Niagara river, the damage was less, and although the cold may have been as sensibly felt, the dampness arising from the water prevented in a degree the extent of frost.

Upon the whole it has been a most unfortunate circumstance. Owing to the exceedingly forward state of the season at that time, vegetation was near a month earlier than usual. The farmers had hurried on their spring operations, when this "chilling frost" suddenly cut short their labors and their hopes. Many who had seized the fine weather of April and early May to get in a portion of their crops, had again to do their work; and he who had neglected his labors for a later season, had in most cases the advantage. The weather soon afterward became delightfully warm and pleasant, but we have had little or no rain until to-day a heavy shower has fallen; but it has been cool for some days and unpropitious for vegetation. Gardens look poorly. Some of my neighbors complain that the frost of last night has cut off their beans. None has been in my garden lately, and the vegetables are looking better. Grass is as yet small, and unless we very soon have soaking rains, the crop must be very light. Wheat looks very well.

The whole moving world as usual are in motion this spring. Emigration seems as great as ever, and thousands and thousands of families are continually flocking into Buffalo and crowding the steam boats, four of which leave here daily for the "far west." All classes and descriptions of people pass on in one indiscriminate mass to fill up the woods of Michigan and Illinois. Yet cheap as are the lands in that region, the western counties of this state are rapidly increasing in population; the country is fast improving and its soil rising in value.

Although the wheels of emigration move so rapidly to the west, a mass of slow material still follows in the rear to block up and keep them firm. In short, nothing is skipped. The whole country is filled as they progress, and some large numbers find in every portion of our fair country verdant and desirable spots. ULMUS.

## On the Circulation of the Sap.

(*Continued from page* 178.)

"3. The growth of stems can be effected where no leaves are developed. The vine of the potato growing in the dark or in the dim light of a cellar, is almost destitute of leaves. It is a strong case to show that they are not required for assimilation. In all cases, the elongation of the branch and the growth of the leaf, take place simultaneously."

Plants that extend by subterranean *surculi*, and even the plumules of many large seeds, may be mentioned as other instances where there is a considerable growth without leaves; but in all these cases, the shoots are very succulent and immature; and evidently draw on the stock of nutriment which had been prepared by the parent plant *while in possession of its leaves.* We do not think that a potato would produce either flowers or seed in a dark place; neither do we believe that perfect wood can grow in such situations. Even in the twilight of a crowded forest, the timber is very inferior to that yielded by trees of the same kind which grow in fields, or in open woods.

"4. The evaporation of a large portion of the watery part of the sap, so far inspissates that the descent becomes difficult. The phenomena of vegetable nutrition and assimilation may be explained without bringing in the agency of the leaves. The spongioles take up water, more or less loaded with foreign matter, as carbon, common air, ammonia, and other alkaline salts."

We are not satisfied with this explanation. We do not deny that the roots take up some carbon, but we have no evidence of such fact. In what state or form can it be when absorbed by the plant? Its absorption from the atmosphere where it floats in combination with oxygen, through the medium of the leaves, is well established; but these same leaves will not absorb it in the dark. We doubt very much if the spongioles, *always in the dark*, can effect the decomposition of that acid.

"As soon as the fluids come in contact with the vegetable structure, they are more or less changed. In their progress upward, especially in herbaceous plants, they are still more changed and particularly while passing through the *neck*."

An examination of the Milk Weed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seems to justify this conclusion; but we have examined various *other* milky plants, such as *Apocynum androsæmifolium*, several species of *Campanula*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Leontodon taraxicum*, (dandelion) &c. and have found the *white* juices to pervade the roots as well as the stalks and leaves. Professor E. appears therefore to have attached to the *neck* of plants, an undue importance.

"When the sap has arrived at the extreme branches, its assimilation is complete; and a part of it is employed in effecting the extension of the branches, or expansion of the leaves: the remainder is exhaled. That the fluids are changed in their upward progress, before they have reached the leaves, is shown by the fact that *the sap of the sugar maple is sweeter in the higher parts of the trunk than in the roots.* Its specific gravity is also greater; and it is to be remembered that the maple is yet *leafless.* The elongation of the branches is finished in about three or four weeks, and the leafing is perfected in the same time. These two processes engross all the fluids, and bring into action all the energies of the plant. Afterwards the sap is differently employed, viz. in forming the annual layer, and in developing the buds. I have been led to consider the leaves as organs of exhalation, and *not* of assimilation."

In our opinion however, the *leaves* have more important offices to perform than what Professor E. has suggested. We have already referred to their abstracting carbon from the atmosphere; and the maturing of the fruit is another process that requires their assistance. When the season through excessive wetness, causes the leaves of the Vine or of the Plum to drop (as in the summer of 1833), the fruit of the finest varieties is unpalateable. Amongst such at that time might be mentioned the Chasselas grape and the Green Gage plum, neither of which was fit to eat.

If it be said, the loss of the leaves was in consequence of the whole plant having become diseased; and that while the secerning vessels of the *neck* were in that state, healthy juices could not be elaborated,—we would reply that we have had the same result from healthy Vines, simply by removing the leaves. None of the fruit was matured.

"It is not improbable that the leaves may assist in the elevation of the sap. *After their expansion, not a particle of sap will flow from the wounded vegetable.* They assist in this process by the rapid evaporation from their surface."

Professor *Emmons* is advantageously known for his devotion to several branches of the Natural Sciences; and it is proper to present our readers with his closing apology. We will first however, offer one for ourselves. We have been prompted in our comments, we trust, by a love for truth; and in the hope that we should incite, rather than discourage, the investigation of this subject. We think several of Professor E.'s observations of great value.

"I wish to present the above remarks rather as *hints* than established conclusions; and they are offered for the purpose of calling the attention of philosophers anew to the subject, that something more satisfactory may be taught than we find in the existing systems of Vegetable Physiology."

## Vernal Flowers.

[*In a letter of the 31st ultimo.*]

I very much dislike to make mistakes and then acknowledge them. *Fritillaria meleagris* is *not* a rambler however, but a plant of very *orderly* behavior in the border.

Some species of *Veronica* are very pretty; and at this time *V. gentianoides* which greatly resembles a gentian in its leaves, presents every day a succession of delicate striped flowers shaded with pale blue. Another species, which I received under the name of *V. saxatilis* has blossoms of a deep blue. It succeeds best in shady places.

I am much pleased with my new variety of *Phlox setacea;* it covers itself with flowers. *P. maculata* with a stem two feet high, is also a fine species.

*Silene pennsylvanica* is a small plant with rose colored blossoms; and as it "asks but little room," it may be readily accommodated. It deserves a place.

*Statice arneria* is employed for edging, and is considered only inferior to the box for this purpose. It is however an elegant plant. Its slender leaves perserve their verdure through the year; and its pink colored flowers, growing in heads, make a fine display.

The blossom buds of *Iris germanica* and *I. albida* were destroyed by the frost. The latter is nearly allied to *Iris sibirica*, a neat plant with handsome bluish flowers, which withstood the storm. *I. flavescens* is very ornamental.

I wrote notices of several Pæonies last year. A *single* variety of *P albiflora* marked "*candida*" has been injured in the bud by the cold; and though the petals opened, the anthers were killed. I cannot therefore judge of its merits. The variety called "*uniflora*" was less advanced, and blooms this season with increased splendor.

The double rose Pæonia (*P. officinalis* var. *rosea*) opens with a fine *red*, but in a few days, changes almost to *white*. The double white (*P. officinalis* var. *albicans*) opens with a slight blush, and changes in the same manner. Both are desirable plants; and I may remark that the double varieties continue much longer in bloom than the single kinds.

The Pœonia marked "*hybrid violet*" is one very nearly allied to the "*cornescens;*" indeed they appear only to differ in the shades of red on the petals; and have more downy and coarser leaves than any other Pæonies in my possession. The true *P. hybrida* on the contrary has the segments of its leaves smooth, and many parted with *linear lobes*, differing from *P. tenuifolia* according to Lindley's specific characters, in nothing but the capsules. This mistake should be corrected.

*Amaryllis formosissima* though a tropical plant agrees well with this climate, if taken up in autumn after its leaves are killed by the frost, and kept in a warm room during the winter. Mine were planted out before the last snow storm, and are now blooming magnificently. Crimson velvet gives the best idea of the color of this flower. It resembles nothing else in our gardens.

The European Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) has been long cultivated. Where varieties, all differing in color, grow near together, the appearance is fine. I have them of a pure white, passing by slight shades into the reddest, the bluest, and the darkest purples. I think the American Columbine (*A. canadensis*) is less ornamental in the garden than on its native cliffs.

The St. Foin (*Hedysarum onobrychis*) is an elegant plant; and though employed as an artificial grass in some countries, where of course it must be too common to merit the care of the florist, yet in this quarter no such objection can prevail; and I cultivate one as an ornament.

*Azalea nudiflora* is a beautiful shrub; and such as grow in shady places in my garden, are still in their glory. In transplanting them from the woods, it is best to remove all the vegetable soil along with the fibrous roots. This ought to be done in autumn or early in the spring.

*Saxifraga umbrosa*, as perhaps the name is meant to imply, grows best with us *in the shade.* It has a thick leaf finely crenated. The flowers are small, white, dotted with crimson and yellow, and are beautiful objects under the microscope. It has long had the favor of the gardeners.

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ERRATA.—Page 162, col. 1, line 8 from bottom, for *cetacea* read *setacea*—In the communication of R. M. W., page 165, for *pirates* read *pyrites*—page 169, col. 3, in the extract from Montgomery for *whirls* read *whelms.*

## Hints on Pruning.

BY J. BUEL.

The principal objects of pruning, are to procure a good bole or trunk for timber; to form a head for the protection of fruit; and to subserve the purpose of ornament.

To effect these objects with the least trouble and greatest advantage, upon all non-resinous trees, the following rules are recommended:

1. Begin to prune the tree when it is young.
2. Cut close and smooth to the bole or limb.
3. Cut, when small, the branches which are likely to interfere, or become useless, and which if suffered to remain, will require to be removed at a more advanced period of growth.
4. Do not trim to excess. Let the branches occupy, *at least* a third of the entire hight of a tree.
5. Do not prune when the tree bleeds. Where the preceding suggestions are observed, we may add—
6. Prune in the summer.

I proceed to offer my reasons for the rules here recommended, and

*First,* The food required to nourish the lateral useless branches, will go to increase the diameter and hight of the plant, or swell the fruit, if these are judiciously removed. But a main consideration is, that the excision of small branches causes only small wounds, and small wounds speedily heal. The observation of this rule, therefore, facilitates growth, promotes health, and ultimately saves labor.

*Secondly,* This rule needs very little argument to enforce its propriety, as every observer must have frequently seen and lamented the ruinous effects of an opposite practice. The snags either send out useless spray; or, deprived of the feeble aid of these, they die and rot, and carry disease into the hole, and are thus often the cause of the premature loss of the tree. If cut close, the enlargement of the living wood soon covers the wound. In large branches where the saw must be used, the healing process is greatly facilitated, by pearing the cut, particularly the exterior edges, with the pruning knife; and it is a good precaution, before you use the saw. to notch under the intended cut, to prevent tearing the bark when the limb falls. In extirpating sprouts from the roots, and neither they nor those growing from the bole should be suffered long to remain, the like precaution of cutting close should be observed; for which purpose it is necessary first to remove the earth from about the collar with the spade or other instrument.

*Thirdly*, The reasons for pruning a tree while young, apply here: It is easier to cut small than large limbs, and the wounds of the former soon heal. But the question presents, what limbs are to be cut? Generally all that are likely to cross each other, all feeble spray, the strongest on the bole, and the weakest in the lop; for while the trees are in nursery, I think it serviceable to leave a few scattering laterals upon the bole, and it is beneficial, at all ages, to thin most kinds in the lop. Yet the answer to the inquiry will depend principally upon the species of tree, and the design of the planter. If his object be timber, the leading shoot should be feathered up in a spiral form, and all other shoots likely to interfere with its growth be cut away. If the object be fruit, beauty and utility are to be consulted, and these are seldom incompatible in the eyes of a fruit grower, for with him productiveness constitutes beauty. If ornament be the main consideration, no special directions can be given, as the species employed, the location, and the taste and fancy of the planter, will have a controlling influence. The rule for timber trees will not apply to either those destined for fruit or ornament.

In orchard and garden fruit, generally, the endeavor should be to obtain a low and spreading top. When a clean bole is obtained to a sufficient hight, say, in the orchard, of seven or eight feet, and in the garden, according to fancy, the leading shoot should be cut in, and three or four more branches left to form the head; which, when the habit of the tree will permit it, should be pruned so as to give it a besom form, or that of a broom divested of its center. Several advantages arise from this and a more extended form. It admits the air more freely, to mature the fruit and wood; it renders the trees less liable to be blown down; it facilitates the gathering of the fruit, and the pruning of the tree. But its principal advantage consists in its tendency to increase oviparous or fruit buds, and consequently to augment the fruit. A great growth of wood seems to be incompatible with a great crop of fruit, and vice versa. A cow that gives much milk seldom takes on much flesh during the milking season. If the secreted food is converted into milk and fruit, there can be but little reasonable hope of its adding to the flesh of the animal, or the wood of the vegetable. Erect branches produce most wood buds. Straight limbs produce less fruit than those that are curved or crooked. Whatever retards or diminishes the flow of elaborated sap, in a healthy tree, is favorable to the production of fruit. Hence wall trees, whose limbs are trained in the form of a fan, or in a horizontal direction, bear better fruit than those that grow upright as standards. Hence young trees are more apt to show blossoms the first and second year after transplanting, than in the two subsequent years. Pomelogists have endeavored to render this law in vegetation subservient to their interests, by adopting artificial means for producing the production of fruit buds. These means consist in ring-barking, transplanting, cutting the roots, training, pruning, &c. The pears in the Caledonian horticultural garden are trained *en quenouille*, that is, the lateral branches are cut in to a short distance of the main stem, and kept so, and the fruit is produced on the spurs growing from these short branches. In the horticultural garden of London, the limbs of the pear are tied down in a drooping position, resembling somewhat in appearance, the weeping willow. The vines cultivated at Thomery, celebrated for their superior fruit, are planted 18 inches apart, trained in the form of a T, the top horizontally, and restricted in their growth to four feet from the main stem. In this way a treillance of eight feet long, and eight feet high, is sufficient for five vines, which produce upon an average 320 bunches of fruit. These modes of training have a common object, that of restricting the growth of wood, and producing an increase of fruit. Those who wish to examine the modes of training here spoken of, in detail, are referred to Loudon's Gardener's Magazine.

*Fourthly*, Leaves are as necessary in the economy of vegetation as roots. The sap must be elaborated in these before it can be transmuted into wood, bark or fruit. A tree cannot thrive, therefore, when these organs are deficient or diseased. If sufficient leaves or branches to produce them, are not left to concoct, or digest, the sap, which is propelled from the roots, the tree, to use a modern term, but a just comparison, becomes *dyspeptic*; the vegetable blood is vitiated; the wood loses its texture, and a stunted growth, or premature death generally ensues. Hence great precautions should be used against excessive pruning.

*Fifthly*, To prune when the tree bleeds, tends to debilitate, by wasting what is designed as food for the tree. I have known it fatal to the vine. What is called bleeding is the flowing of the sap from wounds before it has been converted into aliment. This sap flows most freely while the buds are swelling, and until the leaves are fully capable of discharging their office, as is strongly instanced in the maple, birch, &c. Our orchards are generally pruned in March, which is probably the most unfavorable month in the year for this operation.

*Sixthly*, The advantages of summer pruning are, that the tree being then in vigorous growth, the wounds heal speedily; and the sap being concocted and thick, does not flow from the wounds, and thereby impair the health of the plant. Summer pruning should not be performed, however, before July, when the new growth has considerably advanced. It may be well to add, as this suggestion may seem unsound, that summer pruning is recommended by the best authorities. "As a general rule," says Pontey, "summer is preferable to winter pruning:" and Sang suspends pruning "from the beginning of February to the middle of July, but carries it on during every other month of the year."*

In regard to evergreens, which with us are confined principally to resinous trees, it is the general practice of nurserymen, and I think it a judicious one, not to prune them until they have acquired some years growth, and then but sparingly and at long intervals, displacing two or three tiers of the lower branches every two or three years. Monteith says, "never cut off a branch until it has begun to rot, as the bleeding of a live branch will go far to kill the tree."

The implements employed in pruning and the manner of using them, are matters of moment. If the operation is commenced when the tree is young, and judiciously followed up, a good knife, a small saw, and a chissel fixed on a six foot handle, to trim the tops and extremities of the branches, are all the tools that are required. A large saw will be occasionally wanted; but an axe or hatchet should never be employed, as they fracture the wood, bruise and tear the bark, and disfigure the tree.

J. BUEL.

*Albany, December*, 1830.

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Hoed Crops.—The oftener you stir the ground among corn, potatoes, &c. the less they will suffer from drouth. Stirring the ground renders the soil more open and porous, so that it will the more readily receive and retain the dews and rains. Earthing or hilling of plants should be done with caution. Heaping the earth too much about plants is hurtful, as it does not permit the roots to have so much benefit from the rains, and too much hinders the influence of the sun on the lower roots. Whatever hilling is done should be performed by a little at a time, that the roots may gradually and easily accommodate themselves to their change of condition.—*N. E. Far.*

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*The common Strawberry* is a natural dentrifice, and its juice wtihout any preparation dissolves tartareous incrustations on the teeth and makes the breath smell sweet and agreeable.—*Bangor Courier.*

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* The Gardener's Magazine for October, has a communication from John Bowers, recommending summer as having a decided preference. The growth of trees thus pruned, he says, far exceeds that of the winter pruned. He commenced the practice in 1825, when his trees were six feet high; and in the autumn of 1828, they were twenty feet. He has this year summer-pruned 100 acres of young plantations, which in August were stated to be remarkably thriving and healthy.

## To save Horses' Shoulders from

BEING CHAFED BY THE COLLAR.

Some of the gentlemen of South Carolina are in the habit of making long journeys by land in their own conveyances, and are obliged to resort to every method of affording relief to their horses. From one of these I derived the following simple expedient fer preventing the shoulders of harness horses from being chafed by the collar. The shrewd practical sense of the gentleman referred to, is a strong guarantee of the value of his suggestion. A short trial of my own has fully convinced me of the utility of what is *classically* denominated the sweater. This simple and effectual contrivance is made of two pieces of leather, which for an ordinary horse may be about 5½ inches wide at the top, and 6 at the bottom, and 9 at the greatest protuberance, the front edge being straight, the posterior curved with a gradual swell adapted to the shape of the collar behind. These pieces must be sowed together at the bottom, and connected at the top by two small straps and buckles, so as to be let out or taken up at will. The lower part must be so shaped as to fit the throat of the horse. A strap passes from the bottom of the sweater between the legs to the girth by means of which it is kept in place. The strap should not be too tight, lest it might incline a balking horse to stop, when ascending a hill; and the buckle at the end near the girt, if it chafe may be covered. The leather should be tolerable stout upper, rendered pliant by the occasional application of tallow to the outside. The inner side should be kept clean and smooth.

The sweater is in fact a sheath to the shoulders, and the collar rests on it instead of the skin of the animal.

H.

*Waynesboro, Va.*

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Advantages of Row-culture, or Growing Crops in Drills.—N. B. Rose, in the Gardener's Magazine, observes, "The plan I adopt for growing all garden crops usually raised from seeds, and not transplanted afterwards, such as turneps, carrots, onions, lettuce, radishes, &c. &c. is to sow them in drills of different degrees of width and depth, according to the size of the seeds and of the plants produced. As soon as they rise through the ground I commence thinning and hoeing, repeating the operation several times, especially the hoeing between the rows. The advantage of frequently stirring the ground about plants is known; but it may not be obvious to every one that the soil can be stirred much deeper, when the hoe works along a continued straight line, as it does between rows, than it can be when it works in curves or irregular roundish spaces of limited extent, as it does among crops sown broad cast. I sow my onions in rows six inches apart, and I can stir between them to the depth of nine inches or a foot if I choose; but if they were sown broad cast, and every plant six inches from every other, I could not stir between them, with a common hoe, deeper than one or two inches.

"Stirring deep and frequently renders watering unnecessary, because a porous surface is less impervious to the heat of the sun than a solid one, and therefore keeps the ground beneath both cooler and moister. Any gardener, who doubts this being the case, may convince himself of the fact by covering part of a bed of onions with three inches of rotten tan, and comparing the soil beneath the tan with that left bare, as to heat and dryness."

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Thinning Plants.—Do not permit too many melon or cucumber vines to remain in a hill. Some experienced gardeners have asserted that the hills of water melons should be planted eight feet apart, and musk melons four feet apart each way. And when the plants have become too large to be destroyed by bugs they should be thinned, so as to leave but one in a hill. Cucumbers should be left but little nearer together than musk melons.—*N. E. Far.*

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Gooseberry Caterpillar.—Watering with lime water, always when the sun shone strongly, effectually destroys them, without injuring the leaves.—*Ib.*

*For the Genesee Farmer.*

## Different Breeds of Swine.

Until lately I had little idea that so great a difference existed in the breed of swine. Last fall when in Albany I bought of Mr. Bement two beautiful China spotted hogs. The female was in pig to a fine white English boar, sent to Mr. B. by Doctor Hosack; and although young, she produced a fine litter of eight pigs, the finest in shape and proportion that I ever saw. The male pigs I gave away to my agricultural friends in different parts of the country, and the females with their mother and the China boar I sent this spring to my farm on Grand Island. They have eaten there scarcely any thing but grass, and yet all keep "too fat for good breeders," so my farmer says, and lie down nearly all the time, never attempting to get into mischief or causing trouble. When we took possession of the farm, I bought ten "woods hogs," of the man who had occupied the place previously. To be sure they looked scurvy and mean, with long snouts, high thin backs, light quarters, and long tails; yet I thought something could be made of them. So at it we went. I ordered the hogs to have all the slops and wash of the family, not a small one, with the skim milk of several cows; and even my beautiful plump Chinas were turned off to pick their own way for the benefit of these graceless rooters of the woods. Well, we kept the rascals about six weeks and fed them well, and actually, the more we fed them the worse they looked; and finally to get rid of the nuisance which their sight occasioned me whenever I visited the farm, and to be free from their mischief, for the vandals were continually prying about to see what harm they could do when not eating, I agreed with one of my men to put the hogs into a boat and rid the island of them at once, sell them for the most he could get, and give me half the amount. He thought *selling hogs to the halves* a good business, and forthwith despatched them to a neighboring *still yard*, a worthy receptacle for such a concern.

I actually believe that with what those ravenous brutes consumed, we can keep thirty of the China breed well growing, fat and quiet. They are of good size, will fat to full 400 pounds, and their pork is of most superior quality. I believe them every way superior to the Byefield or Grass breed, being longer bodied and very broad. I intend increasing the breed as rapidly as possible from my own stock, and keeping no other, unless to improve by an occasional cross from abroad to keep up good blood and constitution. Yet strange to say, although my China boar is pronounced by excellent judges the most perfect animal of the kind they ever saw, he was kept through the last fall and winter in town by a neighbor of mine, and did not earn his keeping! So much encouragement for procuring fine animals to improve the stock of the country. I however obtained the animals for my own use, and their superior quality abundantly pays for their extra expense in purchase.

*Neat Stock.*—We found on Grand Island among the settlers, a little breed of cattle, very hardy and active, that were accustomed to full feeding in the summers on the abundant grass and herbage of the island, and during winter starved off their flesh to pretty sorry dimensions by the return of spring. I have bought a number of these little cows, say fifteen or twenty. They are mostly excellent milkers, tolerably shaped, and may be much improved by crosses of the finer breeds. I have also purchased several of the best cows to be found in the neighboring country, and intend making a thorough trial in breeding. My improved Short Horn bull is at one farm, and the Devon at another, and we have about thirty cows in calf to the first, and twenty to the latter. I have also three Devon cows of the best blood to be found, and intend, if time and opportunity offers, to make some regular comparisons of the expense of keeping, quantity of provisions consumed, and the relative profits for dairy and beef of the two breeds and their crosses. Both appear well. But to my eye the improved Short Horn bears the palm. His splendid, stately figure, noble carriage, great size, and fine, beautiful limbs, show much in his favor; while the compact roundness and solidity, deep mahogany color, and beautiful form of the little Devons, have much to commend them also. In fact, both breeds are good for different purposes, and cannot be too highly esteemed; yet I am free to say that further observation inclines me to prefer the improved Short Horns for a general stock.

Cattle in our neighborhood have sometimes died of the bloody murrain, supposed to be caused by sucking in leeches when drinking. We have as yet lost none. I have had constructed some heavy plank troughs, 12 or 15 feet long, and fastened on to heavy wooden blocks to prevent being upset, for the use of the cattle. In these a coating of tar has been poured over the bottom, and sulphur and alum sprinkled on; then a considerable quantity of salt, so that the cattle can lick it up at their pleasure. Cattle will never eat more salt than they want, and the other articles serve as preventives to the disease. Many people only salt their cattle occasionally. But this is apt to be neglected, and cattle get altogether too little, and cannot be kept perfectly healthy without *enough* of it. It also seems to keep them about home, and attaches them to the yard, and makes them docile, affectionate, and easy to manage. All domestic animals have good feelings and dispositions if kindly treated, and much of the sullenness and vice in which they sometimes indulge arises from bad treatment in the first instance by their keepers. These matters should be well taken into account by every farmer and breeder of stock. Not only humanity, but economy and good thrift, requires it. ULMUS.

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*For the Genesee Farmer.*

## Highways---No. XXIV.

In my last number I recommended that highways, where not already wide enough, should be made wider; and let the overseer as he examines the road under his care, observe if one sleigh track at least, may not be readily made. It would be a great accommodation to every man in the district, and to many of their neighbors, who use runners. I have already explained my views of this matter however; and I now appeal to the overseer as to a good citizen, who has the welfare and improvement of the country at heart,—to consider if something more cannot be effected than what his predecessors have done. There may be a cradle-knoll which requires to be thrown back into the hollow from which it was raised in former times—a few moldering logs which ought to be burnt for the sake of decency—and a few large stones which need breaking up and removing; but when this shall be done, there will be often good sleighing on such a path in winter, while the beaten track in the middle of the road, is bare; and it is wanted occasionally, during four months of the year. I must continue to think that a convenience so great, and which can be had so cheaply, ought to be procured.

In two or three districts, I have observed a great improvement in the road which was made by passing a drag or scraper lengthwise over the ruts, breaking up their encrusted edges, and tumbling them into the hollows. One of these instruments consisted of a heavy slab from the saw mill, ten feet long, fastened to a forked tongue and guarded at the lower edge by an iron plate. The end of this tongue went through the ring of the ox yoke, like the tongue of a cart. This scraper had *two* defects: *first*, it was too long, extending across too much of the road at once, and consequently not touching at all in some places; and *secondly*, the edge or plate had no pitch forward, so as to allow the clods it had broken up, to gather on it, hold it down and keep it close to the work; for wherever these were hard, it rose up and slipped over them. In another district, a common scraper had been used, and the road was left in beautiful order. It cut off the rough edges of the tracks completely. Its requiring one or two persons to hold it, is the chief objection to its use, though it is hardly wide enough for this purpose. In a drag properly constructed which ought to have a pitch forward of forty-five degrees, the driver of the team is the only person necessary to manage it.

I am satisfied both from reflection and experiment that if more of *this kind* of scraping was done, and less of *the common kind*, our roads would be in much finer order. In the districts referred to, where the ruts were thoroughly leveled, the traveling was equal to any thing that I have seen at mid-summer; while in the adjoining districts the ruts were deep, rough, and uncomfortable. VIATOR.

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*For the Genesee Farmer.*

He sought for truth in academic groves.
*Somebody.*

MR. L. TUCKER—Willing to come at the truth I would ask A Farmer whether it is not possible that even admitting limestone to be a carbonate, whether the sulphurous acid may not have driven off the carbonic acid, and converted the carbonate of lime into the sulphate of lime? As the sulphurous acid is the stronger than the carbonic, I think it very possible. Again: Water in a state of ice, is said to be its natural state; in this state, I ask, does it contain any caloric? I am inclined to believe not. I could assign many reasons for this belief, but it is possible that it may contain a little, but not enough certainly to communicate the intense heat which we often observe in slacking lime. It appears to me that the caloric would pass from the lime to the ice, as it always seeks an equilibrium. Besides, I do not remember of ever hearing of combustion produced by caloric, but it is often produced by slacking lime. From this, and knowing that water is composed of oxygen and hydrogen, I am inclined to believe the water is decomposed, the oxygen retained, and the heat and the hydrogen escapes in the form of vapor. Now water in the state of ice is

still oxygen and hydrogen, and the moment it receives sufficient caloric it returns to its liquid state, whereas in its state of ice it contains very little if any caloric. This question I would willingly refer to Mr. Eaton or Beck, and abide the result of their inquiries, for if I am wrong I wish to be set right. R. M. W.

*June* 2, 1834.

*For the Genesee Farmer.*

Laugh where we must, *be candid where we can,*
Yet vindicate the ways of God to man.—*Pope.*

Mr. L. Tucker—Your correspondent, A Farmer, is correct in saying that limestone is a carbonate—in whatever shape it exists it contains more or less carbon. At first I could not conceive that this carbonic principle could penetrate large masses of marble or lime rock; but on recollection, most authors agree (and I have no reason to dispute their correctness) that we owe this principle (lime) to shell fish originally. If so, the shells have undergone many changes before they assumed the shape in which we find them; and that lime, in whatever state we find it, has a powerful affinity for carbonic acid. It is more than probable that it imbibed more or less carbonic acid while in a state of progression from shells to limestone rock and marble, and very probably contains from one to two hundred weight of carbon to each ton. Yet I conceive it is not a saturated carbonate, and my reasons for thinking so are as follows:

1. I have been credibly informed that limestone rock or marble, if reduced to powder and applied as a top dressing, is found to promote fertility. Now if we analyze marble or lime ever so strictly, we find nothing congenial to the food of plants. I therefore infer that it owes its fertilizing qualities to its affinity for the carbonic acid in the atmosphere.

Again: I am credibly informed by those who say they have tried the experiment, that if either limestone or marble be reduced to powder, and spread thin on a plate, and exposed to an atmosphere containing much carbonic acid gas, it is rendered soft, and has all the characteristics of chalk. If this be true, then I infer that limestone or marble are not saturated carbonate. If chalk be subjected to the same process it remains unaltered. When limestone, marble, or chalk, are brought to a white heat, the carbonic acid is expelled, and the limestone again acquires a strong affinity for this acid gas.

If this be true, as I believe it is, it would seem that to bury lime in the soil, would be injurious rather than beneficial, because slacked lime, having a powerful affinity for carbonic acid, will obviously take it up as it is generated, and thus prevent its rising to the surface, where alone it can furnish the food of plants, as a top dressing—therefore I believe it beneficial; but when buried in the soil it tends rather to withhold than supply food of plants. The same may be said of gypsum; as a top dressing this is obviously beneficial, but when buried in the soil, it is very doubtful at best, whether it can be of any benefit. I would remark further, that I doubt the solubili of gypsum in any considerable mass, because about forty years ago, large quantities of Nova Scotia gypsum were brought up the Hudson in the stone. Lumps of this have fallen in the river and remained for months without any apparent diminution of bulk. Perhaps I may be mistaken in these views, and if so, shall be obliged to A Farmer, or any one else, who will set me right.

*Potter, June* 3, 1834. R M. W.

*For the Genesee Farmer.*

**Table.**

| Year. | Frog. | Blue Bird. | Robin. | Barn Swallow. | Chimney Swallow. | Meadow Blackbird. | Apple tree blossoms. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | May. | May. | May. |
| 1819 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 4 | 24 | 18 |
| | | Mar. | Mar. | | | | |
| 1820 | 8 | 23 | 23 | 20 | 5 | 13 | 5 |
| | | | | May. | | | June. |
| 1821 | 7 | 14 | 29 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 2 |
| | Mar. | | | Apr. | | | May. |
| 1822 | 27 | 20 | 20 | 28 | 9 | 11 | 17 |
| | Apr. | | | | | | |
| 1823 | 7 | 28 | 25 | 19 | 7 | 15 | |
| 1824 | 6 | 26 | 28 | 25 | 3 | 10 | 29 |
| | Mar. | | | | | | |
| 1825 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 25 | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| 1826 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 26 | 2 | 10 | 17 |
| 1827 | 20 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| 1828 | | 10 | 10 | | 6 | | |
| | Apr. | | | | | | |
| 1829 | 10 | 15 | 29 | 16 | 8 | | 19 |
| 1830 | 1 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| 1831 | | 15 | 16 | 18 | 7 | 13 | 14 |
| 1832 | 10 | 5 | 22 | 24 | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| 1833 | Jan. 5 Apr. 1 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 7 | 14 | |
| | Mar. | Feb. | | | | | |
| 1834 | 11 | 22 | 15 | 18 | 6 | 16 | |

Mr. L. Tucker—For a number of years past I have been in the habit of noting down the appearance and disappearance of some of our migratory birds, the earliest croaking of the common frog, the passage of wild geese, and some of the most remarkable variations of the seasons, &c. a specimen of which is given in the above table. Otisco, where these notices were made, is in the south part of Onondaga county,—is mostly elevated land, nearly or quite 1000 feet above the canal, or the general level of the Onondaga valley; and in the putting forth of foliage and flowering of trees, is six or eight days later than in the valley of the Onondaga, or the Otisco. By comparing the dates it will be seen that the difference in the periodical return of our migratory birds from year to year is small; that the frog (with the exception of the singular fact of his appearance on the 5th of January, 1833,) preserves great regularity in his annual revivification, and that of all noted, the chimney swallow is the most regular in his migratory habits.

In the fall of the year, wild geese have passed most generally between the 10th and 18th of October, and snow invariably immediately precedes or follows their flight. Snow has fallen nearly every year between 8th and 15th of May. In the year 1824, on the 14th May, the snow was more than a foot in depth, but the earth did not freeze and it melted at once. On the first day of June, 1827, some flakes of snow was observed here, and on the high lands to the south and east the ground was whitened. If I recollect right, the Farmer—for I have not now the number before me—stated, that in the late severe freeze and snow storm, it snowed at Rochester only on the 14th. Here it snowed on the 12th, 13th and 14th, and the effects on the young trees and the fruit were as fatal as in your section of the state. In the woods the young beech trees, which were the most forward, appear to be entirely killed, not a green shoot appearing on them as yet

It is probable some of your numerous correspondents have kept similar notes in their journals; if so, they would probably gratify many of your readers, as well as myself, by communicating the result for your excellent paper.

*Otisco, May* 30, 1834. W. G.

## Floriculture.

We have read with pleasure the Address of John H.B. Latrobe, Esq to the Horticultural Society of Maryland, on the 15th day of May last—for a copy of which we are indebted to some unknown friend. The following is an extract. It is peculiarly appropriate at this time:

"The wants of man very soon lead him to the discovery of the vegetables, which were proper for his food, and it is easy to imagine, that, in a short time, he undertook the cultivation of them, to ensure a certainty in his supplies. It is more difficult to imagine, however, the circumstances, under which the culture of flowers became an object of his attention. The heart of that being, though, must have been an honest one, his disposition and sentiments amiable and refined, who first took the wild rose from its native soil and placed it where he might constantly watch over it, finding his homely but pure pleasure in the beauty and the fragrance, that it imparted to his homestead. Little wist he of the brilliant destinies of the flower whose career commenced under his auspices; how, sheltered from the storm, and nourished with a more generous soil, it would multiply its petals and increase in size; how passion would adopt it for its representative, and make it a volume of unwritten meaning to her, who received it as the token of affection; how it would become the comparative of the blush on the cheek of woman, and of the rich hue that precedes the rising, and lingers after the setting, sun; how for it, and its fellows, the gardens of Babylon would extend their pillared terraces along the banks of the Euphrates; how, in later days, it would be recognized as the badge of party in the hot strife of civil war, and that, which had once boasted no other observer than the nightingale, who urged his devious flight and uttered his silvery song in the shady solitudes where it flourished, would be borne on the helms, and embroidered on the banners of opposing hosts. Yet such is but a small portion of the history of the flower. The nightingale is no longer its only worshipper. It is twined among the tresses, or sleeps upon the bosom, of the bride. It is the choicest ornament of the banquet. It imparts a melancholy beauty to the grave: and the associations that now surround it,

"Thick as the leaves in Vallombrosa,"

give to it an interest, fully equal to that, which it derives from its fragrance or its form.

"Nor is there a single flower, from the hardy native, that flourishes in perfection on the most rugged spots, to the rare exotic, requiring the utmost care to preserve it through the seasons, that has not its train of pleasant memories. The superstitions of Eld cluster around them. Holy writ resorts to them for its brilliant imagery. "I

am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valley; as the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters," says the monarch's song. They have been used at the heathen sacrifice: they have decorated the christian altar. While the spirit of change has come over all other things, these gems of the hill side and the valley have never lost their hold on our affections. In youth, they were our play things, in maturer age, they are the objects of our admiration; and, as years accumulate upon us, they remind us, in a thousand ways, that, with all his nice perceptions, his wonderful organization, his vast acquirements, his consummate skill, man is but as a flower of the field, that springeth up and then withereth away.

"In pagan times, the flowers had a deity appropriated to them for their guardian. Priestesses of surpassing beauty ministered at her shrine; and crowds of votaries thronged to her high festivals with the rare and lovely productions, which they fancied that her breath had brought into being, while her hand had wrought all their charms. Centuries have elapsed since these things were, and the custom, to judge from appearances, has not yet fallen into desuetude. Beauty still ministers at the shrine. The multitude of votaries still come up to the annual festival; and the offerings, instead of having diminished in number or in value, instead of being limited to the productions of a single land, are now gathered from the four quarters of the globe, and laid, with the homage of pure thoughts and innocent pride, on the altar of the flowers. But the heathen goddess no longer holds her place in the affections of the people. The hue of the rose is no longer attributed to the magic of her pencil, its fragrance is no longer regarded as proceeding from her treasury of sweets. The homage, that is now offered, through the medium of these, the brilliant creations of his omnipotence, is unto Him, who made the heavens and the earth, and all that in them is, and who, in planting in the bosom of man that admiration for the beautiful and the good, which has now assembled us together, has enabled him to recognize within him the presence of the spirit that connects him with his Creator."

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*From Hayward's Science of Agriculture.*

## On Haymaking.

Having observed that in a season when there was no rain whatever, and the hay had been made with rapidity, and carted within a short time after it had been cut, that a greater quantity was destroyed and injured, by being overheated and burnt, than in a catching irregular season; that when hay had not heated in the stack, it was frequently mouldy; that as hay lost its native green color, and approached a brown, it lost its nutritive qualities; and that altogether the making of hay, as usually conducted, was a very precarious and teasing operation; I determined on trying to arrange a system on some more regular and certain principles, in which I succeeded; and by adopting a certain and regular course of operations, was enabled to make my hay of a uniform good quality; and, let the weather be as it might, at a regular expense of labor. And considering such a process not only of importance, as it ensures a more perfect quality; but as it affords a more certain protection against the injuries usually consequent on the uncertainty of the weather, and overheating in the stack; and that it thus removes two great causes of anxiety, it may be well worth the public attention.

In the first place as to the state of the weather, it generally happens at this season of the year that there are three or four days dry; therefore on beginning to cut the grass, as it is well known that during wet weather grass may be cut, and suffered to remain in the swarth for several days without injury; and it being desirable, where hands are plenty, to have a good quantity, or so much as will complete a stack in a day, in the same state of forwardness; I should prefer beginning to cut during the rainy weather; however be this as it may, swards should not be opened but on a certain fine day; and when this is done the grass should be well shaken apart and equally spread over the ground. As soon as the upper surface is dry turn it well over; and in this operation great care should be taken to open and spread any cocks that may not have been divided in the first opening. This being done, commence raking into wind-rows, in time that the whole may be made into small cocks before night. *The second day these cocks must remain untouched; let the weather be wet or dry:* the third day, if the weather be certain and fine, throw the cocks open; but if the weather be wet or threatening, they may remain another day, or until the weather is certain to be fine for the day. The cocks should then be thrown, according to the crop, into beds of two or three rows; and after three or four hours exposure, turned over; and taking time to gather the whole into wind-rows and cocks before night, let this operation commence accordingly, *and none be left open:* the day after this, which in fine weather will be the fourth; *the cocks must again remain untouched, or not be opened, whether the weather be wet or dry.* On the fifth or next day, these cocks will only require to be opened for an hour or two, when they will be fit for the stack. The novelty of this mode consists only in suffering the hay to remain in the cock the second and third or alternate days; and at first sight it may appear that so much time in fine weather must be lost, but this is not the case. Whilst the hay remains in cocks, a slight fermentation, or what is termed sweating, will take place, and in consequence, after it has been opened on the third and fifth days, it will prove to be just as forward as if it had been worked every day. And the advantages resulting from this, are obviously the following; by shortening the time of open exposure, the color of the hay is more perfectly preserved, and consoquently the quality; and the fermentations or sweatings which take place in the cocks, prove so much to have diminished that principle, or inclination to prevent its heating injuriously in the stack; and the whole operation of making, whether it takes four days or eight, requires three days labor only; and the hay being left in that state every night, in which it is the least possibly exposed to the injuries of the weather, and in which it may remain for a day or two in uncertain weather, without injurious exposure; much painful anxiety and useless attendance of laborers are obviated.

*From the Northern Farmer.*

## Rollers--Sowing Grass Seed.

Farmers who are in the practice of using Rollers to level and smooth the ground, are fully convinced of their great utility. How inconvenient it is to mow, when the surface is very uneven, or where small rocks lie upon it. And there is a loss of labor in being obliged frequently to grind the scythe, or in case of breaking to get a new one. In laying down the soil to grass in the spring, the roller makes "smooth work," and drives down the pebble stones and small rocks beneath the surface, and also renders the appearance of the fields more delightful. But the use of the roller is very beneficial in sowing grass seed. The harrow, unless made with very fine and very short teeth, ought not to be used; because the grass seed, which the common harrow buries one, two or three inches beneath the surface, does not vegetate. In sowing grass seed, I now use only the roller, and it "catches in" much better than it does by harrowing it in. After a light gravelly soil has been well ploughed and harrowed, it may often do very well to sow the grass seed upon the surface before a rain. This fact, perhaps well known to many, I learned by accident. I directed my hands to lay down a field with rye and grass seed. But they forgot to sow the grass seed, as I learned after the rye had sprouted. Believing that the use of the harrow would then destroy the rye, I scattered the grass seed upon the surface and never had any catch in better. But there was several rains soon after. This experiment has induced me to use only the roller.

To make a roller, some take a log, others a stone hewed round. Either is much better than none; but they often drag the small stones, &c. forward, instead of beating the same down perpendicularly into the ground.

A roller made of old truck or cart wheels is preferable. My men made one of a pair of old truck wheels in the following manner. A two-inch white oak plank was cut into short pieces, one end of each piece resting on the hub, and the other end projecting about half an inch above the felloes by wooden pins. A heavy axletree was then put in, about seven feet in length, the ends projecting out of the hubs about five or six inches. The wheels were next covered with narrow thick pine plank, and spiked into the ends of the white oak plank. But the planks must be hewed, so as to form a perfect circle, previous to driving the spikes.

The planks which cover the machine, must not only be very narrow, but thick, the edges being hewn obliquely, being well jointed, resting upon and supporting each other, therefore capable of resisting a great external pressure. Narrow white oak plank, or small timbers, are then to be formed in the shape of an oblong square. In the center of the sides of this frame, a square hole is cut so that the ends of the axletree may enter, and in this frame the roller revolves. To the front end of this frame the tongue or spire is attached, so that the machine may be drawn with horses or oxen. Many farmers now use rollers of a similar construction. Should it be desirable to pick rocks while operating with the machine, it would be easy to construct a box to be attached to the frame. The strength of the roller may be increased, by nailing iron

hoops round the outside. I think that large are preferable to small wheels. In order to turn the machine with cattle with greater ease, it may be judicious to have the circumference in the middle a little larger than at the ends. But when the middle rests upon rising ground, or a little hillock in the act of turning, there is no great difficulty.

Many farmers suffer their cattle, in the wet seasons of Spring and Fall, to graze in their mowing fields. By this practice the soil is not only beaten down and rendered uneven, counteracting the good effects of the roller, but the grass roots are much injured, and, by the fall feeding, are indeed more liable to be winter killed. It is a practice which ought to be discontinued. The inevitable consequence of it is, either to reduce, or else prevent the increase of the quantity of hay.

W. Claggett.

*Portsmouth, March* 24, 1834.

*From the Columbia Sentinel.*

## Shearing Sheep.

This is the month when the operation of shearing sheep is usually performed. To do it well adds both to the interest and character of the farmer; whereas if it be carelessly done, it is indicative of slovenliness and want of thrift. The yearly profits on a farm when all the work is done well and in good season, constitute a handsome fund that in the course of a life time, by its cumulative powers alone, would make a man independent. The process of sheep shearing is one in which a handsome saving may be made, when it is carefully done, which of itself is quite a perquisite. I do not hesitate to say that as sheep are ordinarily shorn, four ounces of wool are left unnecessarily behind on their backs. The work is evidently done too much in a hurry, for long clippings show that there has been more haste than a regard to economy, exercised in the shearing. Having seen sheep shorn in the ordinary way and quite as close as is customary, I have occasionally had a few re-shorn, to see what additional weight of wool might be obtained from a single sheep. I have found the quantity to vary from two to eight ounces, and I have seen an entire flock shorn which, from the trials of this kind of second shearing I have made, I venture to say each sheep would have given six ounces more wool, if it had been more carefully done. To shear well it is true takes a little longer time; but in the quantity of wool gained, the owner more than receives an ample compensation. It is very easy for a shearer to leave more wool on a sheep, than what would be sufficient to pay him for the shearing; nay, I venture to say that it is now so done in a vast majority of cases.

It is computed that there are twenty millions of sheep in the United States, and that they give fifty millions of pounds of wool. Let us then, take twenty millions of sheep and say—which we can do with perfect safety—that on an average, they will gain with careful shearing, three ounces more each sheep; we gain then three millions seven hundred and fifty thousand lbs. more of wool, which is about epual to the average quantity commonly imported; and suppose it worth thirty-seven and a half cents per lb., it gives us the gross sum of near one and a half million of dollars. In consequence of this waste, we are obliged to import this additional quantity of wool from abroad. To add to this the duty and expense of shipment, would swell up the sum to two millions of dollars. This great amount then we lose through our carelessness in the simple operation of shearing sheep, and taken in the aggregate it is quite a national loss. But to bring the subject more home to the interest of my readers, and to see what each farmer looses of this great sum, he has only to count his flock and see what proportion it bears to one hundred sheep, which is the number we will take as the data for our present calculation. Say then, that a man has one hundred sheep, which is shorn in the usual manner, and I say that upon reckoning his flock of sheep, he will obtain from each four ounces more of wool, provided he shears close and does the work smooth. I state this amount because, as I have said before, I have made the experiment, and found that in most cases it is the quantity gained. From one hundred sheep he will get 25 additional pounds of wool, which, from the quality of the flocks in this section of country, is worth at least 40 cents per lb., making the sum of ten dollars. About three cents is the ordinary price for shearing a common sheep, so that the farmer has lost three times as much as would pay for the shearing of his flock, and still had the shearing to pay for in the bargain. The loss then is equal to the ten dollars, or very near it.

In making the above calculation, my object has been to state the simple facts as they have occurred, and as I have had the evidences before me in individual cases, the correctness of my conclusions cannot be erroneous in the aggregate. It shows the importance of having the operation of shearing well performed, and the farmer ought not to permit any one to do this business for him unless the person understands it. Like all other kinds of business, it is a trade, and they who are taught to do it the most carefully, are certainly the most competent to do it well. Look indiscriminately at a number of shearers, and you will soon see how differently they work. A good shearer not only does his work clean, but he avoids cutting the sheep, which the other is sure to do much oftener than is for the benefit of the poor animal; and if you charge him with it, all the answer you get is perhaps, "damn the sheep." Sheep in shearing ought not to be tied in any way. An experienced shearer will hold them so perfectly easy, that commonly they will lie quite still; if they do not, it is an evidence that they do not lay in a proper position, and it only requires a little alteration to give entire ease to the animal. With a bad shearer it is the reverse; the sheep cannot lie still, for in the first place he does not consult the manner in which the animal ought to lie to be easy, and in the second, as he is constantly cutting it with the clip of the shears, the animal struggles to get rid of its tormentor.

The object of this communication is to induce farmers to have their sheep carefully and closely shorn for their own interest. The only objection to this method is, that if sheep are immediately, after being so shorn, turned into a lot without plenty of shade, the sun will blister the skin on their backs, and give them the appearance of having the scab. But from that it can easily be distinguished, as the blisters only appear after shearing and on the backs of the sheep. To prevent this, do not shear quite as close on the back as on the sides and belly, or turn them in shady pastures. The necessity of shearing close might be further dwelt upon from other considerations, but I have now made this article longer than was intended. A.

Argument to Clean the Teeth.—To warn the young reader of cleanliness, a subject or two, which if not very pleasant to discuss, may lead to effects important to future health. No animalcules are found in the saliva, but numbers of different kinds may be discovered in the whitish matter sticking between the teeth; if it be picked out with a needle, or point of a tooth-pick, and mixed with a little rain water, and applied before the microscope, numbers will be visible; sometimes, indeed, so very numerous and active, that the whole mass appears alive. The largest sort, but few in number, move very swiftly; the second sort are more numerous, and have different motions; the third kind are roundish, and so minute that a grain of coarse sand would equal a million of them in a bulk! They move so swiftly, and in such multitudes, that they seem like swarms of gnats or flies. Some or all of these three kinds may be found in the matter taken from between the teeth of men, women, and children, especially from between the grinders, even tho' they wash their teeth with great care. But from the teeth of persons inattentive to cleanliness, the matter affords another sort of animulcules, in the shape of eels. They all die, if vinegar be applied; hence it has been concluded, that a gargle of vinegar is good to preserve the teeth and gums from injuries these little creatures might occasion.—*Shaw's Microscopic Objects.*

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## PRICES CURRENT.

| ARTICLES. | PER | *June* 13. ROCHESTER. | *June* 9. NEW-YORK. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ashes—Pot.... | 100lbs. | $3,25..... | $4,30 a 0,00 |
| —— Pearl.. | ..... | 3,50..... | 4,40 a 0,00 |
| Beeswax, yellow | lb. | 0,16 a 0,18 | 20 a 21 |
| Candles, mould | ..... | 0,10 a 0,11 | 13. a 14 |
| —— dipped. | ..... | 0,09 a 0,10 | 11 a 12 |
| Cloverseed..... | ..... | 6½..... ... | 6 .a. 6½ |
| Flax, American. | ..... | ..... | 8..a. 8½ |
| Flax seed, clean | tierce | 9,00a10,00 | 10,50a11,00 |
| Flour, Western. | barrel | 4,50..... | 4,85 a5,00 |
| Grain, Wheat.. | bushel | 0,84..... | 1,06'a1,08 |
| —— Rye.... | ..... | 0,62..... | 61 .a..62 |
| —— Oats... | ..... | 0,25 .a..27 | 38 .a..39 |
| —— Corn... | ..... | 0,44..... | 68 .a..70 |
| —— Barley.. | ..... | 0,50 .a..56 | 70 .a..71 |
| Hemp, Americ'n | ton | ..... | 100 a 125 |
| Hops, 1st sort . | lb. | ..... | 10 .a..11 |
| Plaster Paris... | ton | 6,00 a 0,00 | 2,75 a0,00 |
| Beef, Mess.... | barrel | 0,00 a10,00 | 8,75 a9,50 |
| —— Prime.... | ..... | 0,00 a 8,00 | 5,50 a 5,75 |
| Pork, Mess.... | ..... | 14,00a15,00 | 13,25a14,25 |
| —— Prime.... | ..... | .....11,00 | 9,25a10,50 |
| —— in the hog. | 100lbs. | 4,00..... | ..... |

## Inscription for the Entrance into a Wood.

Stranger, if thou hast learnt a truth which needs
Experience more than reason, that the world
Is full of guilt and misery, and hast known
Enough of all its sorrows, crimes, and cares
To tire thee of it,—enter this wild wood,
And view the haunts of Nature. The calm shade
Shall bring a kindred calm, and the sweet breeze,
That makes the green leaves dance, shall waft a balm
To thy sick heart. Thou wilt find nothing here
Of all that pained the haunts of men,
And made thee loathe thy life. The primal curse
Fell, it is true, upon the unsinning earth,
But not in vengeance. Misery is wed
To guilt. And hence the shades are still the abode
Of undissembled gladness: the thick roof
Of green and stirring branches is alive
And musical with birds, that sing and sport
In wantonness of spirit; while, below,
The squirrel, with raised paws and form erect,
Chirps merrily. Throngs of insects in the glade
Try their thin wings, and dance in the warm beam
That waked them into life. Even the green trees
Partake the deep contentment: as they bend
To the soft winds, the sun from the blue sky
Looks in, and sheds a blessing on the scene.
Scarce less the cleft-born wild-flower seems t' enjoy
Existence, than the winged plunderer
That sucks its sweets. The massy rocks themselves,
The old and ponderous trunks of prostrate trees,
That lead from knoll to knoll, a causey rude,
Or bridge the sunken brook, and their dark roots,
With all their earth upon them, twisting high,
Breathe fixed tranquility. The rivulet
Sends forth glad sounds, and, tripping o'er its bed
Of pebbly sands, or leaping down the rocks,
Seems with continuous laughter to rejoice
In its own being. Softly tread the marge,
Lest from her midway perch thou scare the wren
That dips her bill in water. The cool wind,
That stirs the stream in play, shall come to thee,
Like one that loves thee, nor will let thee pass
Ungreeted, and shall give its light embrace.

BRYANT.

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PHYSIOLOGICAL.—Some celebrated Physiologists lately expressed an opinion that *intense agony* is felt after *decollation*, in both the head and body.

A case lately occurred in Ticonderoga, N. Y., which settles the question as far as the body is concerned, and proves that no sensation whatever can exist in the *body*, after its connexion with the brain is dissolved. The case is a curious one, and we give it as related in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal:

"E. D., aged 50, a man of hale constitution and robust, in making an effort to scale a board fence, was suddenly precipitated backwards to the ground; striking first upon the superior and anterior portion of the head, which luxated the dentatus anteriorly on the third cervical vertebra. He was at length discovered, and taken in (as the patient said) after he had lain nearly an hour, in a condition perfectly bereft of voluntary motion; but being present, I did not even suspect that the power of sensation was also gone, until the patient (whose speech remained almost or quite perfect, and who was uncommonly loquacious at the time) said, did he not know to the contrary, he should think he had no body. His flesh was then punctured, and sometimes deeply—even from the feet to the neck; but the patient gave no evidence of feeling, and when interrogated, answered that he felt nothing; "and," added he, "I never was more perfectly free from pain in my life," but he remarked that he could no live, and accordingly sent for his family, 12 miles distant, and arranged all his various concerns in perfectly a sane manner.

The head was thrown back in such a position as to forbid his seeing his body. The pulse were much more sluggish than natural. Respiration and speech but slightly affected, but were gradually failing; but he could articulate distinctly until within a a few minutes before his death. All the senses of the head remained quite perfect to the last. He died forty-eight hours after the fall.

Repeated attempts were made to reduce the dislocation, but the transverse processes had become so interlocked, that every effort proved abortive. There was undoubtedly in this case, a perfect compression of the spinal marrow, which prevented the egress of nervous influence from the brain, while the pheumo-grastric nerve remained unembarrassed."

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## The Mahommedan Paradise.

From the History of Arabia.

The measure of felicity will be proportioned to the deserts of the individual—the most eminent degree being reserved for the prophets, the second for the doctors and teachers of the mosques, the next for the martyrs; and the last for the common herd of believers. The celestial joys of Mahommed were addressed chiefly to the indulgence of luxury and appetite. Rivers of water, trees of gold, tents of rubies and emeralds, beds of musk, garments of the richest brocades, crowns set with pearls of matchless luster, silken carpets, couches and pillows of delicate embroidery, are among the rare treasures provided for the gratification of the external senses. Other entertainments are on a scale of similar magnificence. Whatever is subject to waste requires sustenance; and the hungry saints will find abundant supply in a loaf as large as the whole globe, in the flesh of oxen, and in livers of fishes, (delicacies among the Arabs,) one globe of which will suffice 70,000 men. While eating, each will be served in golden dishes to the amount of 300, and waited on by as many attendants. Wine is forbidden in this life, but will be freely allowed in the next; and may be drank to excess, without palling on the taste, or incurring the risk of intoxication. The tooba, or tree of happiness—so large that the fleetest horse could not gallop in a hundred years from one end of its shadow to the other—bearing dates, grapes, and all manner of fruits, of surprising bigness and inconceivable relish, will extend its loaded boughs to the couch of every believer, bending spontaneously to his hand, and inviting him to pluck of its vintage. And should his capricious desires incline, its branches yield the flesh of birds or animals, dressed according to his wishes; while from its expanding blossoms will burst vestures of green silk, and trappings. That every sense may be a congenial gratification, the ear will be ravishsd with the melodious songs of angels and houris, with vocal harmony of the trees, Æolian chime of the bells that hang on their branches, moved by the soft winds of Heaven. When to this train of gorgeous and sensual luxury are added the seventy-two damsels, (the portion of the humblest of the faithful,) whose charms shall eclipse all other glories, whose complexions are bright as rubies, and whose eyes, resembling "pearls hidden in their shells," shall never wander to any but their husbands, we may form a tolerable conception of those delights to which the voluptuous Musselman looks forward as his chief felicity in another world. The most exquisite and artificial pleasures of this life become insipid from long possession, or superfluous from the limited capacities of their mortal owner. Mahommed has made provision against both contingencies. At whatever period believers may die on earth, in Heaven they never shall exceed the potent and animated age of thirty. A moment of happiness will be prolonged to one thousand years, and the enjoyment will be enhanced by an increase of abilities, to the extent of a hundred fold. Amid the endless varieties of flavor and fragrance, their appetites will never cloy. The eye of the enraptured possessor, so strong will be its vision, will wander over his gardens and groves, and descry the beauties of his wives and his wealth, at the distance of one thousand years' journey. Should any of the faithful desire children, (for without the wish the end would be unaccomplished,) the space of one hour will suffice for the birth and growth of a young believer sixty cubits high—the alleged stature of Adam, and the standard hight of paradise. Or should his fancy turn to the rustic pleasures of agriculture, a moment of time will see his luxuriant crops spring up and come to maturity.

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*From the Bombay Courier, September 28.*

HORRIBLE SUTTEE.—The rajah of Eedur, a small independent state beyond the British frontier in Guzerat, died on the 12th of August; and when the event became known to his household, seven of the ranees rushed into the apartment where the dead body lay. The mother of the present young rajah was alone ignorant of the fact of the death, being detained in her room by the karbarees, or native ministers. On the the morning of the 5th, the 7 ranees, two concubines of different castes from the rajah, one personal man servant, and four female slaves, were taken down with the corpse and burnt with it, before the whole assembled population of Eedur. Every body of influence is stated to have aided in the horrid tragedy; and not a single person either connected with the rajah or otherwise, appears to have interposed by word or deed, to prevent these fourteen people from burning; on the contrary, there was the greatest alacrity on all sides to complete this outrage. One of the ranees was several months advanced in pregnancy; another who had throughout shown a disinclination to sacrifice herself, had only been married nineteen months to the rajah, and was under twenty years of age. Just before the lighting of the funeral pile, the eldest ranee, sixty years of age, addressed the karbarees, saying that "she herself had always determined to burn with the rajah, and that no expostulation would have turned her from her purpose, but that it was strange she had not heard one word of dissuasion or compassion expressed by any one." She concluded by desiring them to go and live on the plunder they were securing to themselves by their destruction of the chief's family. The karbarees were influenced, it is understood, in sparing the life of the surviving ranee, as she is the mother of the late rajah's only son, and her loss might have been injurious to their interest. An extensive pillage of the rajah's personal property, consisting of various valubles in jewels, &c. is stated to have taken place for the benefit of the karbarees.

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NOBLE SENTIMENTS.—Lord Erskine was distinguished through life, for independence of principle, for his integrity and for his scrupulous adherence to truth. He once explained the rule of his conduct, which ought to be generally known and adopted. It ought to be deeply engraven on every heart. He said—"It was the first command and counsel of my youth, always to do what my conscience told me to be a duty, & to leave the consequences to God. I shall carry with me the memory, and I trust the practice of this paternal lesson to the grave. I have hitherto followed, and have no reason to complain that my obedience to it has been even a temporal sacrifice. I have found it on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth, and I shall point it out as such to my children."